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IN THE CLAIMS

1-7 (canceled)

8. (previously presented) A method comprising subjecting a TiO_2 residue from a sulfate process to heat treatment and, without being mixed further with other substances, performing a metallurgical process or preparing a refractory material with the heat treated TiO_2 residue.

9. (previously presented) The method according to claim 8, wherein the TiO_2 residues are subjected to heat treatment at from 100 to 1300°C.

10. (previously presented) The method according to claim 8, wherein the TiO_2 residues are in powder form or in the form of molded bodies.

11. (previously presented) The method according to claim 9, wherein the TiO_2 residues are in powder form or in the form of molded bodies.

12. (currently amended) The method of claim 8, wherein the TiO_2 residue comprises from 35 to 70 wt. % TiO_2; from 5 to 40 wt.% SiO_2; from 2 to 15 wt.% of an iron compound ~~compounds~~; from 1 to 15 wt.% MgO; and from 0.5 to 15 wt.% CaO.

13. (previously presented) The method of claim 8, wherein TiO_2 residue comprises calculated as oxides from 20 to 80 wt.% TiO_2; from 2 to 30 wt.% SiO_2; from 0 to 15 wt.% A_12O_3; from 0 to 15 wt. % Fe_2O_3; from 1 to 15 wt.% M_gO; from 0 to 15 wt.% CaO.

14. (previously presented) The method according to claim 8, wherein the dried TiO_2 residues are injected into a metallurgical furnace.

15. (previously presented) The method according to claim 8, wherein the dried TiO_2 residues are used in a tap hole mass.

16. (previously presented) The method of claim 9, wherein the TiO_2 residue comprises from 35 to 70 wt. % TiO_2; from 5 to 40 wt.% SiO_2; from 2 to 15 wt.% of iron compounds; from 1 to 15 wt.% MgO; and from 0.5 to 15 wt.% CaO.

17. (previously presented) The method of claim 10, wherein the TiO_2 residue comprises from 35 to 70 wt. % TiO_2; from 5 to 40 wt.% SiO_2; from 2 to 15 wt.% of iron compounds; from 1 to 15 wt.% MgO; and from 0.5 to 15 wt.% CaO.

18. (previously presented) The method of claim 11, wherein the TiO_2 residue comprises from 35 to 70 wt. % TiO_2; from 5 to 40 wt.% SiO_2; from 2 to 15 wt.% of iron compounds; from 1 to 15 wt.% MgO; and from 0.5 to 15 wt.% CaO.

19. (previously presented) The method of claim 9, wherein TiO_2 residue comprises, calculated as oxides, from 20 to 80 wt.% TiO_2; from 2 to 30 wt.% SiO_2; from 0 to 15 wt.% A_12O_3; from 0 to 15 wt. % Fe_2O_3; from 1 to 15 wt.% M_gO; from 0 to 15 wt.% CaO.

20. (previously presented) The method of claim 10, wherein TiO_2 residue comprises, calculated as oxides, from 20 to 80 wt.% TiO_2; from 2 to 30 wt.% SiO_2; from 0 to 15 wt.% A_12O_3; from 0 to 15 wt. % Fe_2O_3; from 1 to 15 wt.% M_gO; from 0 to 15 wt.% CaO.

21. (previously presented) The method of claim 11, wherein TiO_2 residue comprises, calculated as oxides, from 20 to 80 wt.% TiO_2; from 2 to 30 wt.% SiO_2; from 0 to 15 wt.% A_12O_3; from 0 to 15 wt. % Fe_2O_3; from 1 to 15 wt.% M_gO; from 0 to 15 wt.% CaO.

22. (canceled)

23. (previously presented) The method according to claim 9, wherein the dried TiO_2 residues are injected into a metallurgical furnace.

24. (previously presented) The method according to claim 10, wherein the dried TiO_2 residues are injected into a metallurgical furnace.

25. (previously presented) The method according to claim 11, wherein the dried TiO_2 residues are injected into a metallurgical furnace.

26. (previously presented) The method according to claim 12, wherein the dried TiO_2 residues are injected into a metallurgical furnace.

27. (previously presented) The method according to claim 13, wherein the dried TiO_2 residues are injected into a metallurgical furnace.

28. (canceled)

29. (canceled)

30. (previously presented) The method of claim 8, wherein a metallurgical process is performed.

31. (previously presented) The method of claim 8, wherein a refractory material is prepared.